

The mother sent CSW Johnson a picture of Noah without the lotion. The next morning, CSW Johnson showed the pictures to SCSW Monjack and it was confirmed that there was suspicion of bruises on Noah back.

On 04/18/2019, a referral was called in regarding allegations of physical abuse; ER CSW Vasquez-Ducos is investigating the referral (1192-5551-2767-1086168).

Based upon my review of ER CSW Vasquez Ducos's notes, I am informed of and believe that on 4/18/19 CSW Vasquez Ducos consulted through text with Dr. Joe Rojas from the High Desert Hub prior to leaving to the referral address. This CSW sent the pictures which CS CSW Johnson took on 4/18/19 and explained the nurture of the referral and why the family has an open case with DCFS. Based on the pictures and information given, Dr. Joe Rojas stated the following:

"The marks on the back are concerning. It's unusual to have bruises over the back from accidental injuries, though if he rolled out of bed and onto something, maybe that would explain them"

Dr. Joe Rojas suggested the minor be seen either tonight or first thing tomorrow at the HUB for a forensic exam. Dr. Joe Rojas provided this CSW with CSW Erine Babanyan from the Olive View HUB, 747-210-4681.

On 4/18/19, CSW Vasquez Ducos arrived to [REDACTED] for an unannounced visit. This CSW knocked the door of the apartment which is located in the first floor and a woman who later was identified as PGGM, opened the door and then called the mother, Ursula Juarez to the door. This CSW explained her name and title and purpose of her visit to the mother. The mother gave this CSW verbal consent to enter her home.

Upon entering the home, this CSW observed who the mother presented as the minor Noah Cuatro (4) who was observed playing around the home and frequently coming to play and surround himself around the mother.

This CSW met with the mother in the living room of the home. This CSW then explained to the mother the current allegations and the concerns of the Department. The mother stated that "I just find it weird that all of this is being said when my case is about to close". This CSW explained that that's why she is there, to ensure that the minor are safe in their home, which ensured the mother that that's something they both have in common. This CSW then asked her pertaining to the minor having eczema. The mother stated that on 4/5/19 she took the minor to Kaiser Permanente because Noah was scratching himself a lot throughout his body. The mother stated that the minor was diagnosed with "Head, foot, mouth" in which makes a lot of sense as the scratching all begun after they went to Chuckie cheese. The mother stated that the minor was scratching his back, neck and shoulders. The mother stated that she was told to put on over the counter eczema cream and hydrocortisone on the minor and that is what the minor had on yesterday when CSW Johnson came.

The mother stated that the minor does have a bruise on his back and that is due to him falling off the bunk bed and in the process of falling, he hit himself on the wood part of the bed on his back. The mother stated that she did not know or think that she had to report the bruise immediately to CSW Johnson as she thought that "kids fall" and that it wasn't a huge deal as the minor did not express pain or discomfort.

The mother stated that she is fully aware that no corporal punishment is to be used in the home mainly since they have an open DCFS case. The mother stated that she or her husband use any physical discipline towards any of the child [REDACTED]. The mother rather stated that for discipline, she will speak with her child [REDACTED] and explain why they are in trouble and what they did wrong and then place them on a time out. The mother stated that the bruises on his body are definitely were not inflicted due to corporal punishment but were rather accidental and through play. The mother stated that she recalls that the fall occurred on Monday 4/15/19. The mother with tears rolling down her face she stated, "I told Susan this why would we hurt our baby we just got him back".

The mother then began stating that she believes that her mother, Eva Hernandez is the one initiating this referral due to she wanting to have the minor, Noah back into her care. The mother stated that MGM feels like she has an "authority" over the minor due to she caring for the minor while he was detained and she has a specific bond with him. The mother stated that she is thankful for MGM stepping in so the minor wouldn't go to foster care; however, now, these allegations and the drama she has been creating, which are basically getting in the way of she being a parent and to her, that is not okay.

This CSW asked the mother pertaining to her DCFS history. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The mother stated that she was very pregnant, about 9 months pregnant [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The mother stated that [REDACTED] detained Noah at the hospital when she gave birth. The mother stated that she wasn't able to see her son Noah until he was 1 month old and she got him back when he was 6 months. [REDACTED]

The mother stated that her sister was also detained from MGM because she was on meth and throughout her life she has had to deal with MGM being absent from her life. The mother stated that the MGM abandoned her and her 7 other siblings and MGF was the one who raised her and her siblings. This CSW Then asked her regarding this case.

The mother stated that in 2014 the case was "reactivated" because the minor Noah was low in weight and they kept telling her that the minor had a "life threatening disease" in which she still to this day is not aware what that disease is. The mother stated that the minor was diagnosed with sickle cell and failure to thrive; however, she always attended to what he needed and the doctors were telling her one thing and the doctors another thing.

The mother stated, "I don't trust the Department I have had this case open for 4 years and I have been told I'm good enough [REDACTED] but not Noah how does that make sense? I have been given false promises and there are no results I have tried to raise my child [REDACTED] and do everything I can but my son [REDACTED] so traumatized by you guys" with tears rolling down her face.

The mother stated that she is aware that the minor Noah is very bonded and attached to his grandmother; however, that is not his mother and she should be given the right and access to be a mother now and constantly she is being accused of something.

This CSW then met with the minor Noah Cuatro (4) alone and privately outside the family apartment. This CSW introduced herself and explained the purpose of her visit. The minor understood. The minor appeared happy evidenced by constantly smiling and laughing with this CSW. This CSW then asked him in regards to his "ouchies". The minor stated "the ouchie is going away". This CSW asked him what happened and he stated "on my bed I fell off the bed and I got these bruises" and he pointed to his bruises on his elbows. The minor stated that the bruise on his back happened when he was playing on his mother's bed and he hit himself on the wood. The minor stated that when he hit his back "it hurt". This CSW asked him where his parents were and they stated that they were also in the room. The minor stated "my dad asked me if I was ok and then my momma said 'Noah are you ok' and I said 'yes mommy'". The minor stated that the mother checked him and that he was okay. The minor denied that the pain was prolonged or that he struggled with walking [REDACTED]

The minor stated that he does not feel afraid or scared of his mother or father or any adult in his life. The minor stated that he feels safe in his home and he feels safe because his mother and father feed him and take care of him.

This CSW then asked the minor what happened when he gets in trouble. The minor stated that "they don't hit me". This CSW understood and asked him what happens if he doesn't listen or follow directions and he stated "I don't get in trouble". This CSW asked him again and he stated "well I will have to go to the bed for a timeout and I usually fall asleep". The minor denied any physical punishment in the home.

This CSW then asked the minor how he feels being with his mother and father. The minor stated "its awesome and they always tell me that they love me very much". The minor stated that he feels happy to be with [REDACTED] mommy and daddy. The minor stated that both his parents are "nice" to him, they don't yell at him and they don't use "mean" or "bad" words. The minor stated that his mother and father also hug and kiss him, thus are affectionate towards him.

The minor denied any domestic violence in the home. The minor denied any knowledge of drugs or alcohol. The minor denied any sexual abuse and was able to point to his private areas. The minor indicated that he gets all of his immediate needs met such as food, clothing and has a place to sleep in every night.

This CSW then met with the father, Jose Cuatro. This CSW introduced herself to the father and explained her role and title. The father agreed to be interviewed by this CSW. The father stated that he understood the concerns of the Department and reassured this CSW that the minor was hurt by play. The father stated that the minor was playing with [REDACTED] on the bunk bed as they like to climb and play there and in that play, he fell and that caused a bruise on his arm/elbow. The father stated that the bruise on his back, he is not sure how he got it and states that it could have been when he wasn't home and stated that yesterday, when the CSW everything was "stirred up". The father stated that Noah plays and he falls and hurts himself sometimes and they try to prevent all injuries but he is also a child who should be able to play. The father stated that they don't use any physical discipline and stated that they use timeout as a disciplinary form.

The father stated that him and his wife have never told the minor [REDACTED] what to say or anything in that nature and rather, the minor Noah is very vocal and verbal; he is able to state if something is going on.

The father stated that the mother works and at the moment he does not. The father stated that he is the one who usually watches the child [REDACTED] and he always supervises them appropriate and plays with them. The father stated that he also has not observed any physical discipline from the mother towards any of the minor's in the home.

Regarding the DCFS case, the father stated that the mother is the one who mainly is in contact with the social workers and the appointment and stated "she handles it all". This CSW then asked the father in regards to having the minor back in the home and he stated as his face brightened up, "I'm so happy he is home super happy he is where he is supposed to be". The father stated that the minor is adjusting well and stated that they did go through difficult times as he was confused at first with who was "mommy and daddy" but now he is aware that grandma is not his mother. The father stated that everything is going well and they are looking forward to moving on with their lives without DCFS. The father stated that it's been very "difficult" getting their child removed and dealing with the courts and social workers.

This CSW then asked him how long they have been living in this apartment. The father stated that they have lived there for 2-3 months about and before they live with his mother and now they live with his grandmother. The father stated that the mother notified DCFS about their mother and they were never lying or trying to hide where they live. The father stated "that's what I don't like, I feel like everything is always turned with you guys like everything is always taken out of context in a shady way". The father also denied that he has ever denied or questioned his paternity to the minor Noah and stated "how can I do that when he looks exactly like me? That doesn't make sense".

The father denied any criminal history. The father denied any use of drugs or alcohol. The minor denied any mental health diagnosis and also denied any domestic violence altercations.

This CSW then conducted a safety assessment of the apartment. The apartment is located towards the back of the complex and it is in the first floor. The apartment has 2 bedrooms. The living room of the home has a queen sized bed in the corner, a couch, television and toys. This CSW observed plenty of food in the refrigerator and pantry. CSW verified that all utilities were in worker order by observing running water in the faucet; the gas stove being lit, and operational electricity by the lights being illuminated. Bedroom #1 is occupied by the family. There is a queen sized bed, a bunk bed and a dresser with a television. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Bedroom #2 is occupied by the PGGM and her husband. The mother denied that there are any weapons in the home. This CSW did not observe any indications of drug or alcohol use in the home. This CSW did not observe any immediate safety hazards.

On 04/19/2019, Noah was seen by Olive View-UCLA Medical Center due to the bruising on his back. The HUB report stated that it is plausible current marks/ bruises found can be attributed to the incident that was reported by both mother and child. The linear marking found on the left upper arm are near same left of bruise to right back area which may/can be attributed to the fall that occurred.

On or about 5/14/19, DCFS closed the referral investigation for Noah as inconclusive. ER CSW investigated concerns for physical abuse, the minor received a forensic exam and it did not reveal any abuse and the findings were consistent with the injury explanation that the mother and the minor

provided to the HUB. However, the Department remains concerned that the parents did not seek medical attention on their own for Noah.

On 05/13/2019, CSW Johnson called Noah Cuatro's Maternal Great Grandmother, Evangeline Hernandez. Ms. Hernandez stated "that everyone is telling you guys what's going on and you guys are calling me I can't help". CSW stated that no one in her family has called CSW to report anything and that CSW got an info stating some things and was investigating it.

Ms. Hernandez stated that she is very concerned about Noah and that the father is abusing Noah and father gets drunk and beats up the mother in front of the kid. Ms. Hernandez states that when the father drinks he says that Noah is not his child and that mother messed around with a black man [please note that CSW is aware that father has previously indicated that sickle cell anemia is a disease that black people get, so he thought Noah's father must have been black].

Ms. Hernandez stated that father, Jose kicks mother and the child out in the streets. Ms. Hernandez stated that her family member knows about the abuse and everyone has been trying to get her granddaughter Ursula to leave Jose but the granddaughter Ursula will not seek help.

Ms. Hernandez even stated to her granddaughter (Mother Ursula) that she would watch the kid when she works and the granddaughter could leave the father but the granddaughter tells Ms. Hernandez to mind her business. Ms. Hernandez stated that the sisters know what was going on but since someone called the hotline that the mother will not talk to them anymore.

Ms. Hernandez stated that she has only seen Noah once since Court in November and when she saw him that he was scratching his hair and she could see that he had lice, but the mother stated that he had hand foot mouth disease and mother stated that she had taken Noah to the doctor for it. Ms. Hernandez stated that Noah was thin and that mother had stated that Noah was so weak that he could not throw a ball. Ms. Hernandez stated that she brought the mother some pediasure to give to Noah to help him. Ms. Hernandez stated that Noah kept trying to talk to her but that mother would not leave Noah alone with Ms. Hernandez so she could not talk to him. At one point mother stepped away to answer a phone call and Noah asked Ms. Hernandez to take him to the restroom, in the restroom Noah was just getting ready to talk to Ms. Hernandez when the mother came in to the restroom and stated that she would take Noah to restroom.

Ms. Hernandez stated that when Noah spent the night over to his maternal aunt's house that in the middle of the night that Noah woke up screaming and when the maternal uncle went in to see about Noah, Noah stated that his butt hurt real bad, the uncle told the aunt that he feels that Noah is being sexually abused.

Ms. Hernandez was in tears stating that Noah is so little and that she is so sad and does not know what to do. Ms. Hernandez states that Kaiser is constantly calling Ms. Hernandez to tell her about doctor appointments that Noah needs to have, but when she tells her granddaughter Ursula, Ursula just states that she will handle it.

Conclusion:

Based upon my 4 years of experience as a social worker investigating over 10 child abuse referrals, this social worker believes that the conduct of mother/Ursula Juarez and father/Jose Cuatro, which includes, but is not limited to, general neglect as evidenced by the following:

Since the minor was released to home of parent on 11/09/2018, many concerns have arisen from the family. CSW Johnson has made numerous attempts for unannounced home calls. The parents do not make the child available to the CSW always stating that they are at a "far away" place such as Knott's Berry Farm or the mall at a distant location from the home. This has made it nearly impossible for the Department to assess the well-being of the child.

During an unannounced home call, CSW Johnson was told by the current resident that family has not lived at the residence for 5 months even though father and mother had been meeting CSW Johnson at the residence pretending to live there with their child [REDACTED]. CSW Johnson did not know where the family had been living for 5 months due to the parent's deception.

During announced home calls the child Noah appears to be scripted and coached as to what to say to the CSW. He frequently, without being provoked, will tell the CSW how much he loves his parents and likes living with mommy. Parents continue to state that they are going to homeschool Noah which will further isolate him from anyone seeing the child.

Both the maternal and paternal family members have all expressed concerns about Noah's behaviors and the parents isolating Noah from the extended family. The paternal great grandmother that allegedly lives in the home has never been available to be interviewed or seen by CSW Johnson.

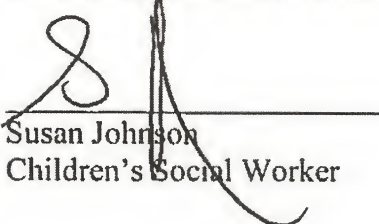
The Department is concerned about the parents' ability to attend to Noah's medical needs as on two separate occasions Noah was ill or injured and was not taken to the doctor or hospital in a timely manner. During a home call CSW Johnson had to encourage the family to take the child to the Doctor as he seemed lethargic, for the Doctor to report that the child had an ear infection.

A referral was generated in April 2019 was due Noah reportedly falling off the bed leaving a mark on his back, and per Mother's report, the fall left him "out of air" with bruises on his back and arms and the parents did not seek immediate medical attention for him, all which are the initial reasons that the family came to the attention of the Department. The father was Court ordered to take the child to the doctor for all necessary appointments.

The Family was Court ordered to participate in PCIT in November of 2018, the family was referred and the family never followed up with the referral. The Department is strongly concerned about the parents' capacity to address the ongoing safety and well-being of Noah.

All of the above conduct by the parents endangers the physical and emotional well-being of the child such that the child is at risk of suffering emotional or physical harm. As such, the child needs to be removed from mother/Ursula Juarez and father/Jose Cuatro and be placed into protective custody in order to ensure the child's safety and to protect the child from the endangering or detrimental conduct of the parents.

I certify that the foregoing is true and correct under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, executed in Lancaster, California on May 15, 2019.


Susan Johnson
Children's Social Worker